

## **BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation of	)	
	)	
the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF REVOCATION
	)	
Michael Rivers	)	
	)	
Certificate 196309	)	

### **SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate revocation matter on June 8, 2005. On April 22, 2005, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Michael Rivers a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate number 196309 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Rivers received a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Rivers educator certificate 196309.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Rivers holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over four years of teaching experience. Mr. Rivers was under contract with Darlington County School District for the 2003-04 school year and was a guidance counselor assigned to Lamar High School. Mr. Rivers resigned from his employment on February 17, 2004, following allegations that he engaged in inappropriate conduct towards female students. Among other things, Mr. Rivers reportedly

asked a female student if she had a “thong” on and said that it turned him on sexually; told the same student that he could not wait until she graduated so he would not get into trouble being with her; and kissed another female student on the mouth and neck, gave her his cell phone number, and told her not to tell anyone about the kisses.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-160 (2004). 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes “Unprofessional conduct”, S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support its conclusion that just cause exists to revoke Mr. River’s certificate 196309 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

By: /S/Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 8, 2005